

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the specification, the paragraphs [0001] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. The new paragraph has been amended to read:

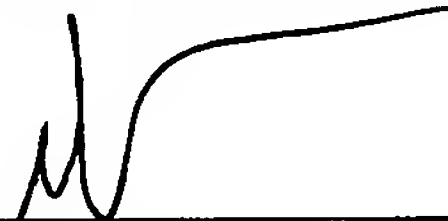
**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority based upon ~~to~~ U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/431,662, filed on December 8, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. This application also claims priority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty based upon co-pending PCT application no. PCT/US03/38899 filed December 8, 2003.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP



David B. Ritchie  
Reg. No. 31,562

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

6/8/2005